

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS.**

Claims 1-13 (CANCELLED).

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator for use in reflexotherapy, comprising:
- a base member;
  - a plurality of needles fixed within said base member;
  - each said needle comprising a rod member provided with a sharpened portion at a first end of said rod member, and provided with a head portion at a second end of said rod member;
  - each said needle being fixed in said base member so that said rod member provided with said sharpened portion protrudes above said base member;
  - said rod member being made from a base material;
  - one or more of said needles being partially covered with a coating;
  - said needles including one or more first needles being made from and/or coated with a first material, and one or more second needles being made from and/or coated with a second material;
  - each said needle being surrounded with needles whose base materials and coatings are made from different materials;
  - said first and second materials having different electrochemical potentials; and
  - said partially-covered needles expose a surface of contact between each needle and a user's epidermis to at least said first and second materials.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 14, including:  
one or more third needles being made from and/or coated with a third material having  
a different electrochemical potential than that of said first and second materials .
16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 14, wherein:  
the coating on one or more of said needles comprises a multilayer coating.
17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 15, wherein:  
the coating on one or more of said needles comprises a multilayer coating.
18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 14, wherein:  
said needles are disposed in said applicator in a configuration in which adjacent  
needles exposed to said surface of contact with the user's epidermis are either coated with  
and/or made from different materials.
19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 15, wherein:  
said needles are disposed in said applicator in a configuration in which adjacent  
needles exposed to said surface of contact with the user's epidermis are either coated with  
and/or made from different materials.
20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 16, wherein:  
said needles are disposed in said applicator in a configuration in which adjacent  
needles exposed to said surface of contact with the user's epidermis are either coated with  
and/or made from different materials.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 17, wherein:

said needles are disposed in said applicator in a configuration in which adjacent needles exposed to said surface of contact with the user's epidermis are either coated with and/or made from different materials.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 14, wherein:

the material comprising said needles and/or coatings is selected from steel, copper, chromium, nickel, silver, cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, palladium, strontium, tellurium or alloys and oxides thereof.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An applicator according to claim 21, wherein:

the material comprising said needles and/or coatings is selected from steel, copper, chromium, nickel, silver, cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, palladium, strontium, tellurium or alloys and oxides thereof.

24. (NEW) An applicator for use in reflexotherapy, comprising:

- a base member;
- a plurality of needles fixed within said base member;
- each said needle comprising a rod, a sharpened portion, and a head;
- said needles being partially covered with a coating;
- said needles including at least a first set of needles being made from and/or coated with a first material, and a second set of needles being made from and/or coated with a second material;
- said first and second materials having different electrochemical potential;
- said needles being partially covered with a coating to expose a surface of contact between each needle and a user's epidermis to at least said first and second materials having said different electrochemical potentials;
- at least one further set of needles being made from and/or coated with a further material having a different electrochemical potential than that of said first and/or second set of needles;
- the coating on at least some of said needles comprises a multilayer coating;
- said needles are disposed in said applicator in a configuration in which adjacent needles exposed to said surface of contact with the user's epidermis are either coated with and/or made from different materials; and
- the material comprising said needles and/or coatings is selected from steel, copper, chromium, nickel, silver, cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, palladium, strontium, tellurium or alloys and oxides thereof.

25. (NEW) An applicator, comprising:

a base member and needles fixed therein;

each of said needles comprising a base with a rod, a sharpened portion, and a head;

said needle bases being made of steel, copper, chromium, nickel, or silver, and provided with a coat made of chromium, nickel, copper, or silver;

at least a portion of said needles being made with solid and/or partial coats;

in the case of partial coating of said needle bases, the areas close to said sharpened portions thereof are formed by at least two materials having different electrochemical potentials;

needle bases and coats are made of chemical elements selected from a group additionally including cobalt, aluminum, magnesium, zinc, tin, titanium, vanadium, beryllium, gold, platinum, palladium, strontium, tellurium, and alloys and oxides thereof; and

said needles are arranged in said applicator in such a way that adjacent needles comprise different base and coat materials.